reports indicating that ISI, with the help of Indian Extremist elements from Punjab and Kashmir are using the territory of Nepal and the Indo-Nepal border as a base for terrorist activities directed against India. Government of India has also received reports of increased activities of religious fundamentalist elements in certain pockets along the border.

Measures have been taken to enhance coopation with Nepal, particularly with regard to implementing effective border management. The concerned agencies of the two Governments remain in regular touch. There are also bilateral institutional mechanisms, such as the Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary level talks, which have been evolved to specifically develop cooperation on security matters and to address these concerns. In pursuance of the decisions taken in these meetings, both sides have agreed to take well-coordinated measures, including stepping up vigil along the contiguous border districts of India & Nepal to prevent misuse of the open Indo-Nepal border and to counter activities directed against India. As a result of this co-operation between the two countries, many terrorist conspiracies sponsored by Pakistan have been neutralized. Policing on Indo-Nepal border has also been intensified and strengthened.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Army Chief's Visit to Poland and EECs

1359. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether General V.P. Malik, the Chief of Army Staff, visited Poland and other East European Countries for ten days in early May after the Kargil intrusion had been detected;

(b) if so, whether he was aware that the intrusion had taken place but still went on this tour; and

(c) whether he did not know that the intrusion had happened?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) At the invitations of the Chiefs of General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces and the Czech Armed Forces, Chief of the Army Staff General V.P. Malik undertook goodwill visits to Poland during May 11-15, 1999 and to the Czech Republic during May 16—19, 1999. As is the normal practice, the goodwill visits of the Chief of the Army Staff to Poland and the Czech Republic were planned well in advance following mutual consultation with the host countries. The initial report indicating the presence of some infiltrators in the Batalik Sector was received at Army HQ on May 8, 1999. At that point of time, the magnitude of the infiltration was assessed as limited and an appropriate response against the infiltrators was initiated at the lower formation level. Hence, it was considered not necessary to cancel the visit of the Chief of the Army Staff.

(c) Not applicable, in view of (a) and (b) above.

Residential Certificate For Non-Bengali Recruits

1360. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that any order has been issued recently in West Bengal directing compulsory submission of residential certificate from D.M. only for non-Bengali aspirants to be recruited in Army;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government for this type of discriminatory order; and

(c) the action proposed by Government to withdraw the order?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No such order has been issued by Government of India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.